



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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F R E E

VBT house fire kills teenager, sends six to hospital

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Belleville High School freshman Savion Robinson, 14, died in a house fire early Sunday morning after helping his family members escape the blaze.



Savion Robinson

Van Buren Township fire fighters were called to 47515 Denton Road at about 4 a.m. Sunday and when fire fighters arrived the home was fully engulfed in flames.

A family of two women and five children were living in the home and an 18-month-old child was pulled out the front door by VBT fire fighter John Henderson. The rest of the family were out of the house, but Savion was missing.

A next-door neighbor, Don Buckenberger, said the nine-year-old girl ran from the house to pound on their door for help. Later it was said Savion guided her to the door of the burning house to go get help.

Jodi Buckenberger said another child was walking down the road screaming. She said at first the fire was just smoke, but then flames erupted. She said the families on both sides of the burning house were evacuated by fire fighters.

The Buckenbergers called 911 while Don ran over with a flashlight to see if he could help. He shined his light in the front door and said he saw the 18-month-old inside at the foot of the stairs and he believes Savion moved her closer to the door so she could be saved. He heard Savion's voice inside and called Savion "a hero."

The roof was beginning to cave in and his wife urged him not to enter. Buckenberger's back was singed.

VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain said Fire Fighter Henderson, who had just suited up, went inside and carried the girl out.

(continued on page 23)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Firefighters from Van Buren Township, Belleville, and Sumpter Township worked to put out a house fire on Denton Road early Sunday morning. The body of 14-year-old Belleville High School student Savion Robimson was found in the rubble in the lower level of the house by Belleville firemen.

Sumpter approves fire dept. procedure for Narcan

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 8 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved the use of the anti-opiate Narcon (Naloxone) as a part of the fire department procedures.

Fire Chief Joseph Januszyk explained that when someone has overdosed with opiates the heart slows down. He said they will use a nasal injector and within a minute the heart starts up and the person wakes up.

Chief Januszyk said the State of Michigan approved a written policy on how this is applied to a patient.

He said they will exchange the used units for new units at Beaumont Wayne with a report on their use.

Trustee Don LaPorte, a fire fighter, said Narcon is absolutely amazing.

"It brings them back to life immediately," Trustee LaPorte said. He said they put 2 cc in each nostril. He said HVA administers it intravenously.

Januszyk said he doesn't know yet if Beaumont will charge the township.

He was asked if it brings anyone back to life and he said they have to have a heartbeat. He said children get 1 cc per nostril.

In other business at its Dec. 8 meeting, the board:

- Approved the second reading of the amended Caregiver Ordinance;

- Approved closing the township hall from Dec. 24 to Jan. 3 and approving employees'

time off. The treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 for those who wish to pay their taxes this year;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment to the Board of Review of Jennifer Massel, Brenda Bukis, and Karen Woodington (alternate), with a term to expire January, 2018;

- Heard the Police Report from Chief James Pierce, including that no new medical marijuana caregivers had registered and that the medical marijuana files had been transferred to the clerk's office; and

- Heard Ross Marroso suggest that the township should telegraph what it would like to see concerning medical marijuana. He said there is a breath spray with zero THC that controls his niece's seizures. He said there is "a potential of things we don't know exist."

This Space On The Front Page.
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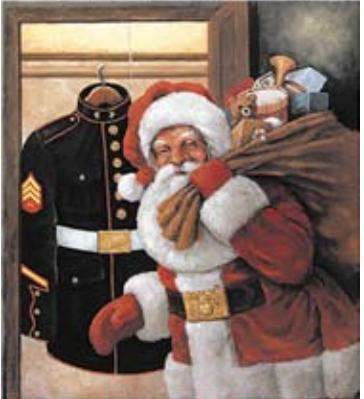
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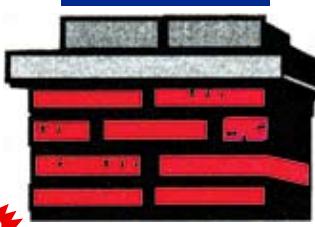
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

District Library board decides on new library building in downtown

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

At its Dec. 8 regular meeting, the Belleville Area District Library Board voted unanimously to select Option C for its new library. Of the three options presented by architect Dan Whisler, Option C is a 30,000-square-foot, all-new, two-story building in the middle of Fourth Street, between the alley and Charles Street.

Three board members were absent, but they had all shown a preference for Option C, as well.

Options A and B were proposals that included add-ons to the present library building. Option C will raze the present building after construction of the new building.

Paul Stauder of Public Financial Management, a financial adviser, was present at the meeting to present conservative projections for bonds to pay for the building.

He gave figures for \$9 million to \$14 million in bonds for the library, which would total 0.48 mills to 0.81 mills, depending on how much the new bonds are and how many years the tax would be levied.

He said it is a year out from the November 2016 election and a year and a half before the bonds would be sold, so these are projections, but he feels they are appropriate.

He explained what wording should be in the ballot language, including the amount and what it's for. Also, the district library would pledge its unlimited taxes.

He said the financial proposal assumes the tax base grows 1.5% a year and that someone can capture some of their taxes.

"When you decide what you're going to do, we'll tailor the numbers more specifically," Stauder said.

Board member Michael Boelter said, "We need to have a talk with the Belleville DDA [Downtown Development Authority] and the Van Buren Township DDA."

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy reported on state legislation to help libraries in the state with tax captures. She said a bill had passed a Senate committee.

She said it eliminates most automatic library tax capture, but the library board could decide to allow the capture if it benefits the library.

"We will meet with the Belleville and Van Buren Township DDAs," said board president Mary Jane Dawson.

Stauder gave figures for 20 and 25-year bonds, with the interest paid much higher for the 25-year bond.

Attorney Barbara Miller commented from the audience about how the DDAs are run by non-elected people and, "they suck up the money."

Stauder said when the DDAs were created they were very small. But in the 1980s they grew substantially and captured a pool of money. Since the economy fell in 2008 they had taken on a lot of debt. He said the hit is very, very direct on DDAs. A lot have their revenues restricted and a lot have debt to pay. That's one reason they have the concerns they do with new legislation, Stauder said.

"And, groups like yourself are concerned about losing the next dollar," Stauder said.

"The DDA could contribute to the library if you stayed in the district," said architect Whisler.

They mentioned the Payment in Lieu of Tax concept.

President Dawson gave a report on the Nov. 25 meeting with city of Belleville officials to supplement the written report prepared by Building Committee Chairwoman Joy Cichewicz, who was not present for the Dec. 8 meeting.

DPW Director Keith Tackett reportedly confirmed that Options B and C would require rerouting or have an impact on a sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water and a gas line. And, they would need two new fire hydrants.

He said he preferred option A, which has no impact on any infrastructure, or Option C if Fourth Street remains open from Main Street to the alley.

City Building Official Rick Rutherford expressed concerns about bringing the old library up to code, which is pretty much impossible.

Mayor Kerreen Conley preferred Option C, provided that Fourth Street remains open from Main Street to the alley. Cichewicz reported that the mayor felt Option A took the most money off the tax rolls and did not like the idea of cobbling together the old building with a new addition, as in Options A and B. She said it would be possible to work with the city on details of the library's current lease. Mayor Conley would like to see the electrical lines underground, if possible, as proposed by the library.

Cichewicz reported DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson was interested in how the library would handle storm water retention.

Whisler said the county is in charge of the storm water drainage and while it drains into the lake, the appropriate way to do it is underground in an urban setting, probably underneath the parking. He said it can be a significant cost, but it's part of being good stewards of the environment.

He said this captures oils from dripping cars in the first flush and cools the water by holding it, enhancing water quality.

In her report, Cichewicz said the library needs to make a decision on which option to pursue and once that is done it would be



The Belleville Area District Library won a trophy in the Winterfest Parade on Dec. 5 for being the best entry in the Municipality category. Pushing the lighted Precision Book Carts were, from left, Mary Jo Suchy, Diana Mayo, Jacquelynn Douglas, Hilary Savage, Noelle Douglas, and Lindsay Lore, all library staff members. Library Director Suchy said the potholes on West Columbia Avenue were especially daunting for the cart pushers.

useful to present it to the city council.

Board members said they were influenced by their visit to the Dexter District Library which is the same size as the one proposed for Belleville.

After deciding on Option C, Whisler said this gives him direction to begin the design and he needs to get one the board is comfortable with. He said the big question is, "Where's the front door?"

He said the city people seemed to like being able to see the front door from Main Street, but they could put it on Charles Street.

In other business at the Dec. 8 meeting, the board:

- Approved the regular board meeting dates and library closure dates for 2016;
- Heard Director Suchy say the draft of the financial audit for the year ended June 30 is good and the library took in more than anticipated and spent less than anticipated. She had distributed copies for

the board and public to study before the audit presentation at another meeting;

- Learned the library's lighted Book Cart Precision Drill Team won a trophy in the Winter Fest parade. Also, Suchy said, there was a very generous donation of \$6,000 from the Liedel family in memory of their deceased mother. The library will be able to replace an extremely worn out love seat in the magazine section with a new love seat and chair. In addition, the Friends of the Library will be asked to purchase one additional chair from the same furniture line to replace a worn out chair in the children's room and all of these can be transferred to the new library, if one is built;

- Learned the Friends of the Library have approved \$2,500 to purchase new carpeting for the program room since it is being held together by duct tape.

The next meeting of the board will be at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 12.

Belleville Council OKs new traffic order

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Independent Editor

At its Dec. 7 meeting, the Belleville City Council unanimously approved Police Chief Hal Berrieman's traffic control order that would erect no-parking signs on North Liberty Street.

The signs, which have since been erected, are on the west side of North Liberty from E. Huron River Drive to 200' north on North Liberty Street.

That's about from the city hall backyard driveway to its parking lot to E. Huron River Drive.

The order said this will allow for a smoother flow of southbound traffic and alleviate traffic tie-ups at Liberty and E. Huron River Drive.

This will also allow northbound traffic on North Liberty Street and East Huron River Drive to proceed without the influx of southbound vehicles merging into the center lane.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said the neighbors will be notified and given 30 days to get used to the idea before citations are written.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Two heroes cited in VBT house fire

Young Savion Robinson reportedly worked to save family members from the fire that raged through his Van Buren Township home on Sunday and ultimately took his life.

And, VBT Fire Fighter John Henderson went into the fire and collapsing building to pull Savion's little sister out of the blaze.

In the aftermath, both are being called heroes. At Tuesday's township board meeting, it was suggested that Henderson should get a medal of some kind for his bravery.

Savion is credited with moving his little sister closer to the front door where Henderson found her and pulled her from the flames.

Then, it is believed, Savion went back to help other family members. Everyone escaped except Savion.

Members of the emergency crews at the scene are reeling from what they experienced in this fire, as are the dispatchers who sent them to the fire.

We saw the grim faces on the fire fighters at the scene. These young men have children of their own and this was hard for them to see.

We want them all to know we appreciate what they do for our community and thank them from the bottoms of our hearts for their service.

How fortunate we are to have people who take time out of their normal lives to train and jump out of bed in the middle of the night to save lives. Thank you.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Michelle Scarborough called to tell me about her son, the bugler, who I featured in a picture in last week's paper. He is now 13 years old. Young Steven is an eighth grader at Renton school in the Huron School District. His father works for Detroit Metropolitan Airport Fire Department and brings in young Steven to help out by playing the bugle for mock funerals for training. They live in Brownstown Township.

Sherry Olds of Harris Road in Sumpter Township showed us pictures on her phone of her little dog Buck who was attacked by the neighbors' pit bulls at about 8:50 a.m. Dec. 8. Buck is a pug/rat terrier mix and weighs about 25 pounds.

The renters next door have one full-blood pit bull and one pit bull mix. The two took after the little dog and ripped Buck's stomach open and was pulling him out from under the deck by two legs when she and her husband ran out of the house after hearing her dog scream.

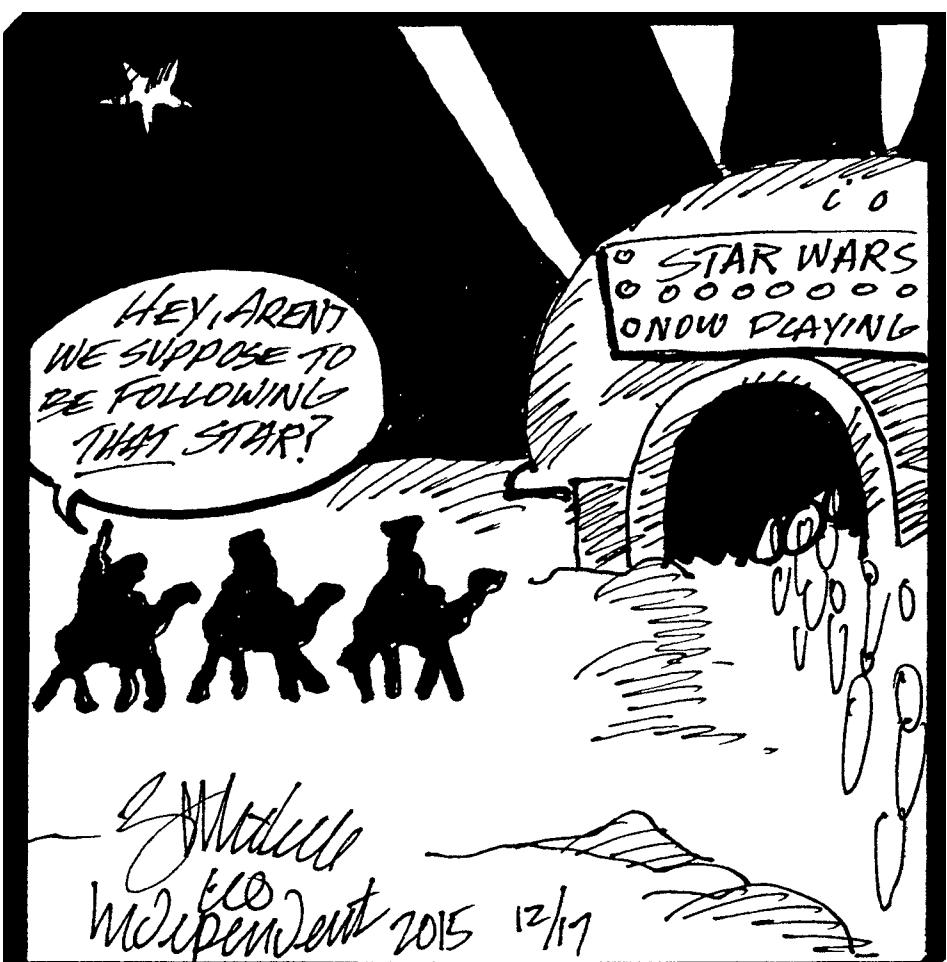
The Olds' older dog Coco, a half-shepherd/half-boxer rescue, tried to help but couldn't because of his hip dysplasia and he couldn't walk for three days.

Sherry yelled, "Back!" and her bigger dog and the pit bull mix backed off, but not the other one. She grabbed its collar and pulled him away, but then she fell down and the dog went back for Buck.

They had a broken piece of trim in the yard so her husband kept hitting the dog on its head and he broke the board on him. But the attack finally stopped.

They took Buck immediately to veterinarian Melanie Dukes and she sewed him up and gave medication to stop the

...By Rosemary K. Oztman



infection. They are still nursing Buck.

Sherry called the police and Sumpter Officer Jerry Cox cited the neighbors for vicious dogs and dogs at large.

Now, Sherry is on a mission to have those dogs behind a fence instead of roaming free – and she's sure other pit bulls are just as dangerous. This is the second pit bull attack she has seen. The first was Up North when a pit bull reached up and bit onto the face of a little girl who reached over to pet it.

She said all dogs have a wildness within them, but pit bulls seem to be the most vicious. She said they are deadly and she can't understand how people can be so nonchalant about them. She is unsure if she will be able to have her grandchildren at her house for Christmas this year because of the dogs next door.

At Monday's Van Buren Township work/study meeting Diane Madigan wanted to know about the \$374 spent for employee appreciation massages that she saw on the voucher list to be approved Dec. 15.

Clerk Leon Wright said they weren't massages, but they were 10-minute stress relievers. He explained the department directors donated money out of their own pockets into a fund for the employee appreciation activities that took place last week.

Each day during the week other vendors were present to do presentations funded by the donations. How the donations were

handled in the miscellaneous account for the general fund was also discussed. I believe it was the Human Resources person who suggested employee appreciation activities because they seemed to be under so much stress.

I agree with Diane Madigan who posted her thoughts on the *Independent* web site that VBT Fire Fighter John Henderson should get recognition for his work in Sunday's house fire. John went into the crumbling, burning building to pull out a little girl who was so badly injured she first was reported as deceased. Now she continues to fight for her life because John was suited up and willing to go into a blazing building.

He was there so quickly because he was part of the duty crew that was at the fire hall and able to leave immediately when called to the fire. VBT is considering doing away with duty crews and have the fire fighters come to the fires from home.

Kathy Bailey, who retired after teaching second grade at Lincoln Schools, said she has received lots of calls from people who want to sign up for her free class on how to do basic, family research on the internet. For more information, call (734) 660-1971 or email kbailey@gmail.com.

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Letters

Details of bomb threat at McBride Middle School

To the Editor:

Friday McBride Middle School received a bomb threat at 10:52 a.m. and police were immediately notified.

As Superintendent, I made the decision to evacuate the building. While we felt the threat was probably a prank, we will always err on the side of student safety first.

All students were kept outside away from the building with their teachers present. I walked through the building with the police and the bomb-sniffing dogs to ensure the building was safe and that the threat was not real.

The police cleared the building as safe and all students were returned to classes.

There was confusion due to an alert sent out by Van Buren Police Department telling parents where to pick up their students. The intent was not to imply that school was closed but to offer advice for those parents who wanted to pick up their students immediately.

We spend a great deal of time coordinating efforts for these types of situations, but we understand that in the immediacy of an actual event, instantaneous, accurate media releases are difficult, at best. We will continue to refine our systems with all local municipalities on communication.

I want to take the time to sincerely thank our students, parents, the police and our staff at McBride for their handling of this situation. I believe every threat must be taken seriously and we must always be diligent about the safety of the students we serve. We will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law the person who made the threat.

Michael L. Van Tassel, Superintendent
Van Buren Public Schools

Time to reflect: Keep us in thoughts, prayers

To the Editor:

Over this past weekend, tragedy struck a family in our Township as a young man's life ended that morning and a two-year-old child is still clinging to life after a fire swept through their home. This tragedy will have a long-lasting effect on the family, neighbors, and friends, but also on the Public Safety personnel that dispatched and responded that morning.

These same men and women also experienced the loss along with others and continued to maintain a high level of professionalism while doing their job. It was

a very emotional time for all and everyone played a significant role in rendering aid to the victims that morning. I could not have been prouder of all the police and fire personnel who put themselves in harm's way to save lives.

This Holiday Season, please keep all those who were involved in the Denton Road fire in your thoughts and prayers. Your Public Safety will continue to be there to protect and serve you every day keeping our community safe.

Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

VBT groups seek help for Savion's family

To the Editor:

The Van Buren Police Officers Association and Van Buren Fire Fighters Association are working with fellow community members and businesses to secure funding for the family of Savion Robinson, a 14-year-old student at Belleville High School, who died while getting his family members out of their Van Buren Township home as a fire tore through it at about 4 a.m. on Dec. 13.

If you wish to make a contribution by check, please send your check to 847 Sumpter Rd., Suite 120, Belleville, MI 48111. Please make checks payable to the Van Buren Police Officers Association and put Savion Robinson in the memo section.

If you wish to drop off any belongings, clothes, or any other physical items, please drop it off at Mail Center One which is located at 847 Sumpter Rd Belleville, MI 48111. There is additionally a youcaring account set up for credit card transactions. Please visit www.vbtpatrolunion.org for additional details and updated information.

Thank you,
Adam Byrd

VBT Fire Fighters, Police to help needy

To the Editor:

The Van Buren Township Fire Fighters Association and the Van Buren Township Police Officers Association are very happy to announce we have partnered together as one united community advocate to adopt several families for this holiday season. Applications were submitted to <http://www.vbtpatrolunion.org/> for families in need. There were several families with hardships that some of us could only imagine. It is going to be a heart-warming experience to the men and women of the public safety department when we can bring some hope and holiday spirit to these families. This is a time of giving and we are very excited to be part of such positive community contacts.

Sgt. Marc Abdilla / MAFF president

More Letters

As we shop, think about those in need

To the Editor:

This is one of the holiest times of the year for Christians, however it has been filled with sadness and loss of lives who only wanted to be free to celebrate and enjoy one and another. The sadness of broken hearts, broken families, the loss of friends and loved ones.

How do you recover from such events during this season? Through the sanctity of community, family, and friends and the wisdom of sticking together, we shall overcome the hurt. Be Kind.

Long years ago a Child was born in a manger because no one had room for him in their inns. We find ourselves having to band together to hold each other up. Remembering that we are honoring and remembering a Christ Child who came to give each of us LIFE.

As we shop for presents, think about those who are in need of comfort, healing and a warm smile.

Sincerely,
Marian Caldwell, Van Buren Township



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McBride Middle School evacuated on Friday for bomb scare

On Friday morning, McBride Middle School in Van Buren Township was evacuated after a report was called in that there was a bomb in the building.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazzi said police called in a bomb-sniffing

K-9 and searched the building. The bomb report was unfounded, he said. Students were allowed back into the building around noon.

Clickondetroit.com showed an aerial picture of the activity around the school.

An earlier Nixle alert from VBT police advised parents to come pick up their children at the east side of the building, but that was incorrect and the school day continued.

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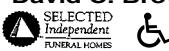
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Obituaries



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Fernaldo Peter DiLaura



FERNALDO P. DiLAURA

(November 8, 1918 – December 13, 2015)
Fernaldo Peter DiLaura, age 97, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, December 13, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born November 8, 1918 in Hamtramck, MI, son of Luigi & Columbia DiLaura.

Mr. DiLaura proudly served his country in the U.S. Army in World War II and received a bronze star. He enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, camping and traveling. He loved power walking around Belleville and walked five miles a day every day until the age of 92!

Fernaldo is survived by daughter Susan (Michael) Kim of Belleville, ex-son-in-law Wally Crapo, grandchildren Christopher (LeeAnne) Crapo, Julia (Gregory) Kruysman, Clifford (Jessica) Crapo and Marcie, great-grandchildren Kyle Kruysman, Zane, Connor and Owen Crapo, and many other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Alice (Cushman) DiLaura on September 9, 2015, sister Abby and brother Richie DiLaura.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM Thursday, December 17, 2015 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500 with a visitation from 10-11 AM. Mr. Earl Campbell will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of the donor's choice and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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JOHN ALLEN BLANKS

(April 14, 1968 – November 14, 2015)

Age 47 of Belleville. Survived by a brother Gary Blanks, Belleville. A memorial service is being planned at Willis Baptist Church, 8687 Bunton Rd., Willis 48191, (734) 461-0352. Arrangements David C. Brown Funeral Home.

ELMERINE JANE MILLER

(September 25, 1936 – December 13, 2015)

The mother of Sumpter Township Trustee Peggy Morgan, passed away Sunday. Visitation is Friday, Dec. 18, 2-8 p.m. at Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400). Funeral will be 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Full obituary next week.

"The approximate \$1.75 billion distribution and \$500 million share repurchase program are consistent with the previously announced plan to return \$2.5 billion to \$2.75 billion of cash to shareholders," said Visteon President and CEO Sachin Lawande.

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As part of the capital return program, on June 16, 2015, Visteon entered into an Accelerated Stock Buyback (ASB) with a third party to purchase shares of its common stock for an initial payment of \$500 million.

The special cash distribution and share repurchase program will be funded from proceeds from the sale on June 9, 2015, of Visteon's approximately 70% ownership interest in the former Halla Visteon Climate Control Corp. (HVCC) to an affiliate of Hahn & Company, and Hankook Tire Co. Ltd.

Belleville Fire Fighters file for binding arbitration for contract

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

On Dec. 4, Belleville Fire Fighters, who belong to the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) union, filed for mandatory binding arbitration, under Public Act 312 saying its attempt to negotiate a contract with the city has failed.

Under Act 312 the city will have to pay the expenses of the arbitration.

All the paid-per-call fire fighters in the 103-year-old department are union members, except for Fire Chief Brian Loranger.

The union president, Fire Lt. Brian Blackburn, said fire fighters have been trying to negotiate a contract with the city since they organized the union more than two years ago, without success.

It all started when fire fighters asked for their training wage to be upped to \$10 an hour from the \$5 an hour paid. Paying less than the minimum hourly wage of about \$7.70 an hour at the time was technically illegal, Lt. Blackburn said.

Blackburn said the city asked for a wage analysis and wage comparisons and the fire fighters gave it to them. "It showed what that change would do to their budget," Blackburn said.

Blackburn said the issue came before the city council and they voted to raise the training wage to minimum wage. Blackburn said the fire fighters were promised that when the next city budget was prepared the council would raise the training wage to \$10.

"When that didn't occur, that's when we organized," Blackburn said.

Union vice president Jason Martin said the fire department was the last department of the city to organize.

"We didn't want to do it, but we didn't have a choice," Blackburn said. "They weren't taking us seriously."

The Michigan Employee Relations Commission handled a mail-in election, requested by the city. It took longer, but after the votes were counted and the majority was found to favor a union, the fire fighters organized under MAFF, the same as Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, and Augusta Township.

The local union organized, electing Blackburn as president, Martin as vice-president, Colette McClinton as treasurer, and Matt Loveland as secretary. All the officers, along with the MAFF negotiator, now Fred Timpner, made up the union's negotiating team.

The city retained labor attorney John Clark and with City Manager Diane Kollmeyer the two made up the city's negotiating team.

Blackburn said the city kept putting the union off to start negotiations. He said they would set a date and then the city would call to cancel and reschedule. Then one of the two city negotiators wasn't available and they'd cancel again.

Meetings were at city hall.

Blackburn pointed out that City Manager Kollmeyer annually goes to Florida to be with her husband for an extended time during the holiday season, which "blows two months of our negotiations."

Martin said they have been trying to negotiate for 24-25 months and Belleville does not have a huge department – 18 now.

Blackburn said when Sumpter Township fire fighters organized it took two months to negotiate a contract.

Martin said the city proposed the city fire fighters stop running medical runs and have Van Buren Township or Huron Valley Ambulance do the medical runs. The city said their response time was too slow.

Blackburn has been keeping track of the response times and he said for the last two years Belleville response has averaged 8 minutes. He said HVA on five or six calls per month took 15 minutes to arrive and sometimes the ambulances came from Monroe County and Scio Township.

Martin, whose full-time job is with HVA, said the union did the financials and found it would cost \$60,000 to put first-responders from HVA in the city. He said the city fire fighters cost a quarter of that, or less.

"No more than half," Blackburn said, adding some of the fire fighter response is less than 8 minutes, but, "I can't control the trains."

The city also proposed putting a duty crew in place, like VBT had when they

started duty crews, being on duty for 10-hour days, but the union turned that down.

Martin said the department is looking to expand the First Responder certification of fire fighters to Basic Life Support.

"We were committed to doing more," he said, adding those with advanced licenses maintain them at their own expense. It would not be a cost to the city.

Blackburn said Wayne County HEMS was very excited to hear what Belleville was planning since it improves patient care.

He said 90% of the fire runs are medical, with 3-4% fire runs, 3-4% accidents, plus other assorted runs, like the gas spill at Citgo two weeks earlier. He said 30 gallons ran down Fifth Street and around the corner, but the fire department was able to stop it, with the help of city DPW crew, and clean it up. Apparently the tanker driver left his truck while the gas was being delivered and someone drove over the pipe,

dislodging it.

Blackburn said the fire fighters feel like the "red-headed stepchild" and get no respect at city council meetings.

"We've tried to be cordial, respectful, and quiet" during the negotiations, Blackburn said.

"We've been working with the state mediator since January and he cannot understand why we aren't making progress," Blackburn said.

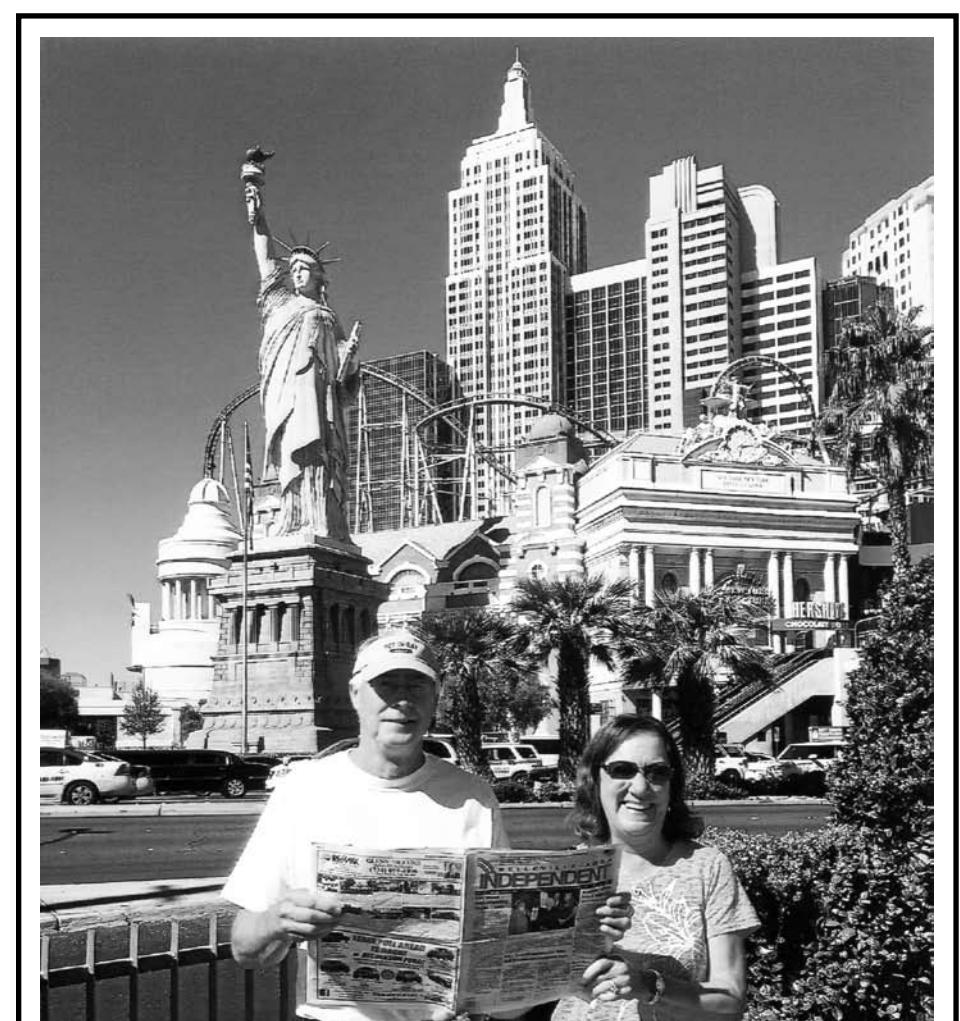
"It's not difficult. We're not asking for things. We're not unreasonable," he said.

Blackburn said in October, just before the election, the city agreed to everything except the pay and insurance.

He said fire fighters are seeking essentially what Sumpter Township fire fighters have, similar to Affleck, which helps after an injury as a fire fighter.

Blackburn said he's an engineer at Ford

(continued on page 9)



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Rick and Vicki Leischner of Van Buren Township read their *Independent* on Oct. 10 in Las Vegas where they attended a wedding. They stand in front of the New York, New York complex.

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Fire Fighters file

(continued from page 8)

and the insurance wouldn't be to pay his Ford wages if he's injured, for example, but to keep him afloat. He said when he got hurt on his fire fighter job it turned out the city didn't have more than workman's compensation coverage for him.

"If I have long-term disability, I'm hosed," he said.

Martin said the insurance requested would pay for his treatment if he was injured on this job.

"We left in October with the feeling we'd have this handled by the first of December," Martin said. "But then the city didn't want to meet."

MAFF negotiator Fred Timpner gave the city team an ultimatum and set a deadline of Dec. 4.

"By that Friday night there was no response," Blackburn said, "so I told people and also Chief Brian Loranger, out of respect."

They informed the assigned state mediator, who was disappointed, but understood.

Timpner called attorney Clark and, finally, on Tuesday, Dec. 8, Clark returned his call and asked him not to go to binding arbitration.

"We've been doing this for two years," Blackburn noted.

"All the progress in early October," Martin said. "They were hoping to wait us out." He said he believes the city just wanted to delay so long that the fire fighters would give up the idea of a union.

"We've got 18 guys and gals that want to run calls," Martin said.

"All we wanted was to have an agreement on wages, go from \$5 to \$10 in training," Blackburn said.

He said he believes the city manager is working at the direction of the mayor. "We saved her house in the middle of all this going on," he said of Mayor Kerreen Conley, whose house caught fire in 2014.

"And, the council doesn't know what's going on," Blackburn said, pointing out at least two council members voiced surprise at information on negotiations.

"We don't want to explain to people why we didn't speak up," Martin said. "We don't want to make a big drama deal out of this, but the citizens need to know."

On Monday City Manager Kollmeyer said she just heard about the Act 312 filing and didn't know anything about it, but, a negotiating session is set for Thursday.

Attorney Clark said on Monday that everyone is trying hard to settle the contract. He said the union had a business agent change where another MAFF agent came on board and that delayed negotiations for three to four months.

And then, he said, the state mediator who has a lot of other cases offered them a session the week of Thanksgiving or the second or third week in December. They will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 17.

Clark said the fire fighter negotiators have to meet late in the afternoon because they have regular jobs. He said the schedules of seven people have to be accommodated.

"We are just down to a few things. It always comes down to money issues," Clark said, noting if they get things settled the Act 312 request could be withdrawn. He said the Michigan Employment Relations

Commission has to approve it.

He said MERC could hold up approval because it is filed when there is an impasse, but since they are meeting they are still negotiating.

Gov. Snyder signs measure setting March consolidated election

Local governments will be able to include candidates for local office and other questions on ballots for the March 2016 presidential primary election, under legislation signed Nov. 24 by Gov. Rick Snyder.

"Giving locals the flexibility to hold one election for numerous questions will help ensure efficiency and minimize costs for local communities across the state," Snyder said.

House Bill 4904, sponsored by state Rep. Ed McBroom, clarifies the filing deadlines for local candidates and ballot questions and classifies the Michigan presidential primary election as a regular election instead of a special election. It was approved with bipartisan support in both chambers and is now Public Act 197 of 2015.

Gov. Snyder also signed five additional measures on Nov. 24:

- HB 4836, sponsored by state Rep. Lisa Lyons, modernizes requirements for long-term care insurance by establishing a Long-Term Care Partnership Program, which is used by other states and provides asset protections during the Medicaid eligibility and asset recovery processes. Partnership policies are also required to contain inflationary protections. The bill is now PA 198.

- Senate Bill 213, sponsored by state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, brings Michigan in line with federal Occupational Safety and Health Act reporting standards. It is now PA 199.

- SBs 225 and 226, sponsored by state Sen. Mike Shirkey, simplify the process of how to register or otherwise transfer ownership of an inherited handgun, including a pistol that was never registered, as is often the case with older guns. The bills are expected to make the process of registering inherited pistols easier for the person inheriting the pistol, the person disposing of the decedent's estate, and the local law enforcement agency. The bills are now PA 200 and 201.

- SB 349, sponsored by state Sen. Jim Stamas, grants additional flexibility to county treasurers to notify delinquent taxpayers earlier, allowing notices to be sent on or within 60 days before June 1, or Sept. 1 during the taxable year. It is now PA 202.

For more information on this and other legislation, please visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

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More Letters

Join us to redecorate The Cross at Hayward's

To the Editor:

The Cross -- at Hayward's -- is the reason for the season. Some people have asked about the lights on it because some of the lights have disappeared, malfunctioned, or burned out.

Those who would like to assist with redecorating The Cross may bring lights, etc., to Hayward's on Sunday, Dec 20, at 6 p.m. for decorating The Cross. Especially requested are lighted plastic figures of an Angel, Joseph, and Mary. If you are interested in contributing please call (734) 262-6570. Thanx, and see you there.

As ever,
James Chapman
Belleville

Thank you, Bethany, for the Christmas music

To the Editor:

I am so thankful for the contributions of the bounty of many beautiful voices in our community. As a young girl living in Detroit, I was surrounded with music every day and most memorable was the music of the holidays. How vividly I recall the many church services and holiday concerts where my mother, Ada Scott, directed choirs, of all ages, while accompanying at the piano and organ -- all of which was to the Glory of our God.

This past week end (Dec. 12 and 13) I had the distinct pleasure of recalling those beautiful memories -- when I attended the celebration of the Christmas story -- "Christmas is Coming, Sing for Joy" at Bethany Bible Church, with music and message presented by the Bethany Bible Church choirs -- adults and children. My friends, neighbors and family are very appreciative of the dedication and community service of John Losen, Jr., Director. The music and narration were outstanding.

The community is saying "thank you." And, most importantly, I am sure HE too is well-pleased.

Merry CHRISTmas to all, and Thank You, Jesus.

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker, Belleville

Thanks to all who helped with Vet's dinner

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made the special Veterans' Recognition Dinner such a great success. This was our second year of having the celebration and we look forward to the many dinners to come.

We particularly want to thank the Belleville Moose Lodge for hosting the dinner, my husband, son and the members of Homeland Security who prepared the meal, the Belleville Area Women's Club for their support in the raffles and, of course, to all those who donated items for the raffles.

We appreciate all those who joined us on Nov. 7 and to all the veterans who we were delighted to recognize at the event.

Looking forward to next year when we again can recognize the veterans who serve in all the branches of the armed forces to keep us safe and free.

Gratefully yours,
Kathie Steigerwald
David C. Brown Funeral Home

FMAR: Thank you to Wolverine Freightliner

To the Editor:

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue (FMAR) would like to send out a special thank you to Wolverine Freightliner - Westside, Inc., long-time supporters of FMAR.

This year Wolverine Freightliner Lynn Terry and some of her team not only came to visit the shelter and adopt a few kittens, they had FMAR listed as their charity for their holiday team celebration. Each employee was asked to bring a donation for FMAR in exchange for a ticket to win a great prize.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, they came out with not one but two cars loaded with donations. They had food, litter, and even

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holiday toys for the animals. Those who couldn't decide what to bring donated cash! What a blessing their team continues to be for FMAR.

Thank you so much to everyone at Wolverine Freightliner Westside, Inc. for your continued support, not only with food and monetary donations, but also for sending people you know to adopt and visit our shelter. We appreciate all of you!

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Editor's Note: Wolverine Freightliner - Westside, Inc. is located on the I-94 Service Drive just west of Rawsonville Road.

Mr. President, I'm worried about you

Letter to the President:

Mr. President, I'm getting worried about you. Run over to the nearest mental health clinic. I think you have worked too hard on climate change and the country has thousands of unemployed coal miners to prove it.

Please go to San Bernadino and tell the families of those that were killed how global warming is a greater threat to them than it is.

Sir, you are either incompetent or nuts. By the way, I listened to your speech on terrorism on Monday. You were pathetic. Have a nice day.

Mickey Widener
Van Buren Township



New VBT Fire Marshal

Van Buren Township Fire Department Captain David McInally was introduced to the VBT Board of Trustees Tuesday night as the fire department's new, full-time Fire Marshal. He is leaving his longtime job as VBT emergency dispatcher and will begin as Fire Marshal on Jan. 1.

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More Letters

Board should focus on controlling budget

To the Editor:

In a "Letter to the Editor" in the Dec. 10 *Independent* CeJay Marshall stated, I "sold the cow for a few magic beans," referring to the Visteon stocks received in

the bankruptcy. A local government cannot own stocks, so a sale was required. The VBT Supervisor was acting on a full board approval of putting the stocks up for sale to the highest bidder, with board-approved Clark Hill attorney Kashef in charge of processing the sale.

The initial offer was 55% of the \$9.8 million in Visteon stock received by VBT. Visteon was in bankruptcy and very few investment firms were interested in purchasing the bankrupt Visteon stock.

After a few weeks, additional information was received by me that another company received an offer of 58% for their Visteon stock and this offer was forwarded to our attorney and VBT was offered 58% for the bonds. Van Buren Township received just under \$5.8 million for the sale and the money was deposited in the LDFA Fund for payment of the bonds.

There will be more on the increased offer for the stock sale later. VBT politics and back-stabbing at work.

Marshall has stated publicly he supported the 6.5 mill increased millage, his taxes are low and he is willing to pay more, but in his letter he wrote the Board of Trustees "will need a comprehensive strategic plan to lessen the burden on our taxpayers." He also states the problem is a "deficit budget." According to the "Proposed 2016 General Budget," the General Fund Balance in the 2016 budget balance is \$4,521,683. Also the projected Landfill Fund Balance is listed as \$6,484,788. These funds total \$11,016,471. Hardly a deficit, as Marshall thinks.

I believe the board's plan is to bring back a 6.5 Public Safety Millage proposal at the next election.

The Visteon 3 – Sharry Budd, Phil Hart and Jeff Jahr – should concentrate on controlling budgetary expenses and save our taxpayers' money in order to make the payment on the 2019 Visteon Bond and let the 2019 Board make the necessary decisions with the LDFA on making the bond payments.

Former Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul D. White

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More Letters



Officer Jordan Short with a shopper

'Shop with a Hero' program aids 37 families

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Van Buren Township Public Safety (police, fire, dispatch) personnel met at Wal-Mart in Van Buren Township in an effort to make a less-fortunate child's Christmas wish come true.

The "Shop with a Hero" program has been in place in Van Buren Township for more than 15 years and Officer Ryan Bidwell has been spearheading the program since 2005 and with the generous financial support from the Meijer and Wal-Mart stores in Van Buren Township makes this annual event possible.

Over \$7,500 is divided into gift cards for the amount of \$200 each, and is given out to eligible children/families selected by staff at Van Buren Public Schools and Keystone Charter that can be used to purchase items at the events.

Children are allowed to select a Hero (police officer, dispatcher, fire fighter) who shops for their entire family. Invitations go out to the Van Buren Public Safety, city of Belleville, and Sumpter Township Police and Fire personnel. It is the job of the Hero to see that the children get items for their

entire family and themselves while staying within the \$200 limit.

Oftentimes, children exceed the limit and the individual Hero covers the overages. In many instances, Heroes go above and beyond by purchasing additional items for the family such as winter clothing, food, etc.

When shopping is completed, children and Heroes get to wrap the purchases and enjoy refreshments provided by the retailers.

This year's program was able to provide 37 families financial assistance during the Holiday Season through the support of Meijer and Wal-Mart. Our next "Shop with a Hero" event will take place at the Meijer Store of Van Buren Township on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

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THURSDAY -- POLISH DINNERS

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SATURDAY -- CHEF'S CHOICE

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Dec. 21-22, 5-9 p.m.

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Donate To Our Adopted Families And To Our Local Goodfellows! Ask Your Server For Details.

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The Belleville Independent is a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI. We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

"CHIP"



Our **Chip** is a real chip off the charming kitty block. With his handsome black haired looks and laid-back, friendly personality he's all that you would expect from a nice kitty boy companion. **Chip** came to us as a kitten through our TNR program and was skittish for awhile but has recently decided being receptive to people attention is where the fun is at. He may be a little reserved until he knows you but it's well worth your time to let him warm up to you. **Chip** is an easy-going, down to earth likeable kitty boy who can almost always be found coming up to get pets and attention from visitors. He isn't pushy for attention but instead waits for you to notice him then eagerly enjoys all the love you want to share with him. He's a larger kitty boy with a silky soft black coat that's hard to resist petting and striking yellow eyes set in a handsome face you're sure to find very appealing. Come meet **Chip**, he will be happy to leave his spot on the block to find his forever home. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.



Build your own Holiday Basket at *Tim Hortons* in Belleville restaurants only!

Please visit either 2141 Rawsonville Rd. or 10360 Belleville Rd. *Tim Hortons* and choose from a selection of coffee's, teas, gift cards and

mugs to surprise the people on your shopping list for this Holiday Season! Place your order at either restaurant and collect your beautiful basket with all the trimmings the next day. Bring this add into either restaurant and receive one small hot beverage of your choice FREE with the order of any basket that you help create!

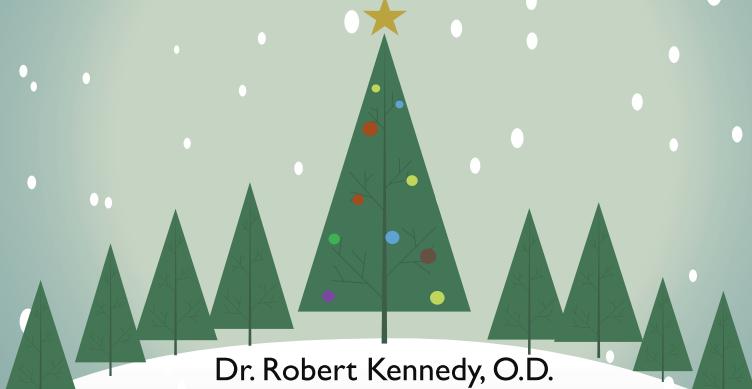
(no cash value with this add and free small hot beverage with your order only until January 02, 2016)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays from your Belleville area Tim Hortons!



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Remember tis the season for using those flexible spending accounts!



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Columbia Court holds grand re-opening after \$3.8 million in renovations

National Church Residences held a grand re-opening for Columbia Court, 275 W. Columbia Ave. in Belleville, on Dec. 15 after completing \$3.8 million in renovations.

This is the latest in a series of extensive renovations by National Church Residences to preserve existing low-income senior housing in the Detroit Area.

Since 2012, National Church Residences has spent \$21.1 million on four such renovations: Lakeside Towers, 115 residents, \$6.9 million; Park Place at Harper Woods, 132 residents, \$6.4 million; Canton Place, 118 residents, \$4 million; and Columbia Court, 108 residents, \$3.8 million.

Belleville Mayor Kerreen Conley was among the speakers at Columbia Court's grand re-opening event.

Other speakers were Wayne County Deputy Chief of Staff Bernard Parker III, MSHDA LIHTC Program Manager Andy Martin, HUD Detroit Field Office Director Michael Polzinelli and National Church Residences Development Corp. President Michelle Norris.

With funds to build new housing for low-income seniors zeroed out in the federal budget, National Church Residences, working with MSHDA, HUD and others, conducted the major renovations that will allow existing affordable senior housing

communities to continue to house seniors for the next 20 years.

National Church Residences is a not-for-profit organization that integrates housing, health care and supportive services, serving seniors of all income levels and families.

With 340 communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico, National Church Residences operates five continuing care retirement communities and is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of affordable senior housing. It also operates supportive housing for the formerly homeless.

The National Church Residences model of person-centered care includes adult day health, assisted living, senior housing, skilled nursing homes, rehabilitation center, outpatient therapy, home health care and hospice. For more information, visit [www.nationalchurchresidences.org](http://nationalchurchresidences.org).

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More Letters

Amazed at those who criticize VBT trustees

To the Editor:

I'm amazed at the number of people in this community who have the same mind set; they feel compelled to voice their particular criticism of how our trustees decide policy, regardless of the situation.

It's almost as if they expect "approval by committee" before any business is undertaken by the supervisor, clerk and treasurer. If they haven't had any basic introduction to political science they might not know that this particular attitude is the fundamental basis of communism! Because we reside in a nation of democratic rule, and supposedly we elect responsible local and national leaders, it might be better if everyone stepped back and considered the consequences of these narrow-minded ideas!

As for determining millage rate requests, such as the recently proposed 7-year Public Safety Department dedicated 6.5 mills that was defeated Nov. 3, this is the responsibility of the township authority: the elected Township Board of Trustees.

The millage committee merely puts together the media presentations and public notices to inform the voters of what the millage will provide in revenues and how it will benefit the community. Usually these committees are made up of responsible business leaders, police and firefighters, township officials and trustees, concerned residents and anyone who wants to positively contribute to the effort. Of course, anyone who is outspoken against a millage is certainly not going to contribute anything worthwhile to that end!

Some individuals have a great deal of difficulty understanding that the three elected officials have the delegated authority (by law) to make the day-to-day decisions for the overall operation of the municipality. They can't hold a spontaneous meeting every time to inquire what the public thinks when a short-term decision is required immediately.

Likewise, they are obligated to inform the public and the trustees of any long-term agendas and seek input and approval for implementing budgetary policies. Grandstanding in front of TV cameras; demanding to know what has transpired with every decision that is made, is annoying and somewhat foolish, especially considering that it's possible to request almost any information prior to the public meetings by merely calling various township offices or maybe even setting up an appointment to meet with these officers and appointed directors.

The Police Officer's Labor Councils have a vital importance in serving the rank and file membership of the Public Safety Department men and women. They also serve as the public awareness conduit for what is required for the safe and efficient use of manpower and resources associated with

community policing and fire prevention.

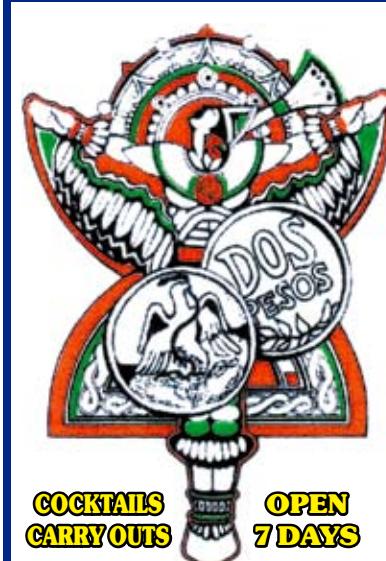
There is an even greater responsibility for the elected leadership of these councils and that is to make certain that the public is treated fairly and without prejudice when it comes to intervention and public discussions. Name-calling or slanderous accusations and false witness (stating erroneous facts) for any encounter with the citizens of a community are prohibited by law. These select individuals should resolve to always speak the truth and remain neutral during any argument or debate involving the elected Board of Trustees and members of the community, especially those that do not pertain to them directly.

It's important that mistakes are kept to a minimum and proper public behavior should be foremost in every encounter. Collective bargaining issues have no place in the public domain while the negotiations are still in progress. Meanwhile, understanding budgetary constraints in relationship to the revenues available is of the utmost importance for setting parameters in every discussion regarding wages and benefits. Placing blame is not conducive to finding solutions and never fixes anything. Making lame excuses and creating turmoil is no substitute for honest dialog. Simply pick up the phone and make an appointment or call and ask questions ... don't wait to be invited!

Perhaps Officer Adam Byrd's limited experience in representing an organized bargaining unit may have clouded his judgment over the past several months? He could have been better informed had he listened to members of the millage committee who dealt with the truth regarding the finances of the township, but instead he focused on foolish accusations and mystical mathematics presented by Paul White, and we all know what a wreck that train was!

In solidarity,
CeJay Marshall
Retired-CWA Chief Union Steward Local
4009 - Southfield, MI
& Resident of Van Buren Township

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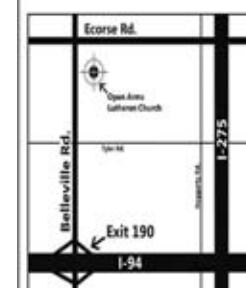
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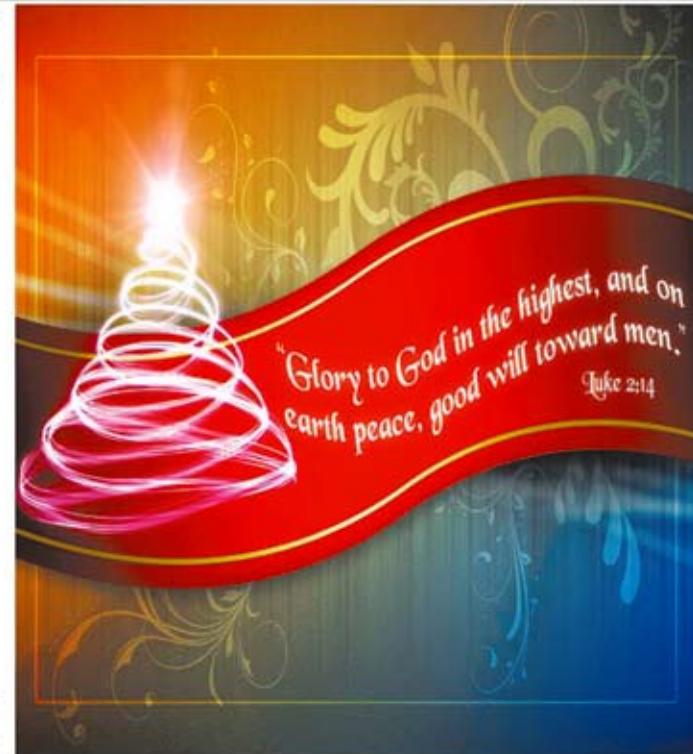


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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Congratulations, to Vic Franzoi of Van Buren Township, whose name was drawn as the winner of the two-year lease on a Ford Focus or \$5,000 cash in the raffle contest sponsored by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and Atchinson Ford. Santa Claus pulled the winning

ticket at Winterfest Saturday following the parade. Franzoi opted to take the cash prize.

The final Craft & Vendor Show of the holiday season organized by Sue Carpenter will take place this Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Belleville Manor at 8701 Belleville Road. There is no admission charge.

The Belleville Community Band will be performing a free Christmas Concert tomorrow, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Belleville First United Methodist Church on Charles Street.

With every service appointment scheduled between Dec. 1 and Jan. 3, All-Star Heating & Cooling of Belleville will donate a portion of the service call to Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, based in Sumpter Township. FMAR is a non-profit, no-kill shelter. To learn more and to schedule service for heating, AC, refrigeration, and ventilation, call Jason or Dan Oberdorf at (734) 718-1622.

Looking for a new place to get a haircut and have a penny in your pocket? Right now through the month of January 2016, Planet Hair in Belleville in the Haggerty Plaza is giving haircuts for just one cent, with salon professional Kristen Hawkins only. The offer is good for new clients only and with their ad coupon in today's newspaper. Call (734) 697-HAIR.

I've already started to make rounds to notify the winners in the City of Belleville's Decorating Contest. Judging took place last week and I'll once again be taking photographs of the winning displays. The winners will be invited to next Monday's City Council meeting to receive a plaque to make it official. The contest is sponsored by the city of Belleville and the *Independent*.

If you can't get to see Santa at the Belleville Museum this Saturday, there's one last chance on Dec. 21-22 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. each day at Leo's Coney Island on Belleville Road. Guitarist Nathan Sweet will also be performing Christmas songs both nights. Information: (734) 697-1000.

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue will be holding their last pet adoption event of the year this Saturday, Dec. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Petco Pet Store on Warren Avenue, across from the mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? There is no charge. Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Through December** – 20th-annual Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3-7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Museum closed Dec. 23-28 and Dec. 30-Jan. 4.

• **Friday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 19** – Friends of the Belleville Area District Library are having a Holiday Book Sale. On Friday it's 2-5 p.m. and Saturday it's 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Friday, Dec. 18** – Friends Free Friday Family Movie Night at 7 p.m., featuring Veggies in the House "The Imposters" (2015, 10 minutes) and "War Room" (2015, 120 minutes). Held in white Youth building, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis. Free popcorn, beverages, anything else brought along also, a seat for your friends.

• **Friday, Dec. 18** – Belleville Community Band's Christmas Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Free admission.

• **Saturday, Dec. 19** – Free Christmas photos with Santa at the museum, noon-4 p.m. sponsored by Belleville Central Business Community. Also Museum Children's Ornament Workshops at noon, and 2 p.m.

• **Monday, Dec. 21** – Santa will be at the Belleville Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. beginning with a short story time. Then he will hear children's wishes or take their notes. Bring a camera.

• **Thursday, Dec. 31** – Friends Free Family Watch Night Movie & More at 8 p.m. "War Room" (2015, 120 minutes). Held in white Youth building, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis. Free popcorn, beverages, snacks, games, and more.

• **Thursday, Jan. 7** – A free, 6-week class of basic family history research begins at 6:30 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 941 South Grove, Ypsilanti. This class will help with the research process as well as to provide step-by-step instruction on using online resources. To learn more and/or reserve a place call or text Kathy Bailey at 734 660-1971, or email kbailey@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Dec. 21 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission cancelled.

• Monday, Jan. 11 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools organizational meeting and regular meeting, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Jan. 12 – Sumpter Township work/study at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

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2001 FORD EXPLORER SPORT 4x4. Only 106,000 miles. Looks and runs great. \$2,800. Ray (734) 740-9552 12/17

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1997 GMC SONOMA PICK-UP. Lady owner, new trans lines, brake lines, fuel lines, fuel filter, new tires. \$1,500 OBO. Shelby (734) 693-5336. 12/17

1974 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL Coupe. Needs minor restoration. \$900. (734) 697-2250 12/24

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2008 WINNEBAGO Voyage. 32', 50,000 miles. Well maintained. Must sell for health reasons. Must see to appreciate. Only \$52,000. (734) 753-9560. 12/31

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FARMHOUSE, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Belleville Area. \$1,200/mo, \$1,300 security deposit. (734) 461-1362 12/24

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WANTED

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 12/17

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 12/17

SAM'S BAR in Belleville is helping a local family this Christmas. Children ages 9 & 16. For gift suggestions call (734) 699-8526. Monetary donations accepted. 12/17

FOUND

GRAY & WHITE tiger cat. Very friendly. Found on Hoeft Road. (734) 674-4425. 12/17

GLASSES LEFT behind after the Christmas Parade. (734) 699-9020. 12/24

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Celebrate the Holidays with a new home from Franklin!
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734-513-4108
Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster
*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value. See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

THREE NEWLY REMODELED doublewides, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Priced to sell. Swan Creek in New Boston. Call Nancy (734) 753-5333 or (734) 790-5750. 12/24

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
– John Quincy Adams

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Open Arms Lutheran Church & Day Care are looking for a loving, caring, qualified lead teacher in our preschool who loves working with children and sharing Jesus. Please contact Michelle Mahaffey 734-699-5000 mmahaffey@Openarmscenter.com

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Court Watching:**Leo Labean bound over on five felony charges for shooting up house**

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Following a preliminary exam on Dec. 9, 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green bound Leo Louis Labean, III, of Sumpter Township over to circuit court for a Dec. 23 arraignment on the information.

Labean, 39, is charged with five felonies: home invasion-first degree, discharging a weapon in or at a building, assault with a dangerous weapon, weapons-felony firearm,

and domestic violence.

Wayne County assistant prosecutor Hillary Zuzow called two witnesses to testify.

First witness was Sandra Gutierrez, who lives in the 25000 block of Martinsville. She testified Labean is her ex-husband and he had been trying to get her to sign off on all rights to their 10-year-old son. He had been calling, leaving messages and texting.

She did not want to sign and had been ignoring his calls. On Oct. 7, she said he came to her house to have her sign off and she said to have his attorney email the paperwork to her.

She testified that he became angry and said he was going home to get the gun and shoot her. She said as soon as he left she called 911 and the dispatcher told her to hide in

the basement until Sumpter Police could get there.

Gutierrez said she went to the basement but felt trapped, so she went back to the main floor and hid in her daughter's closet, still in touch with the dispatcher.

She testified that he came back and she heard four to five shots. She said she kept hearing him call out to her, asking where she was and shouting he was going to kill her.

She said she heard sirens in the distance and then the dispatcher told her the cops were there. She said once police arrived they found shots to windows, ceiling, the floor, and the table.

During cross-examination by Labean's retained defense attorney Keith Kecske, Gutierrez testified her ex-husband lives four houses down, less than a mile, and it didn't take him long to drive home and come back.

Kecske said that their son shoots real guns and she said her son shoots a bb gun and bow and arrow at a target in his father's back yard. But, Kecske insisted the gun her son shoots is a real gun. She said she didn't know.

The attorney pointed out Labean had threatened to shoot her before and didn't. Kecske said she didn't see him as the shooter because she was hiding in a closet and she agreed, but she added she recognized his voice. She said he had hit her in the past.

Kecske pointed out a jury found him not guilty of domestic violence and Gutierrez said that's because the attorney said she lied.

Prosecutor Zuzow called her second witness: Sumpter Township Police Sgt. James Cayce. He testified he has been with the Sumpter Police Department for 17 years and now is Road Patrol Sgt. He said he was at Sherwood Park when the call came in from dispatch that a husband is coming back to shoot his wife.

He estimated it took him four or five minutes to get to the house on Martinsville, south of Willow. He got out his patrol rifle and saw 223 shell casings on the deck. The casings were darker steel than the ones the department uses. There were holes in the front door around the lock. He called for backup to "step it up" and called out that the police were there and she could come out.

When Officer Jerry Cox got there they made sure nobody else was in the house. Captain Eric Luke joined them. Sgt. Cayce said bullets had deflected off the floor, ceiling, kitchen area wall, and a window in the kitchen had a bullet hole. Prosecutor Zuzow produced pictures of the damage that Cayce confirmed.

He said he was mainly talking to the victim when Labean returned and then Officer Cox and Captain Luke talked with Labean.

Labeau went with Officer Cox back to his house and they went inside. Sgt. Cayce testified he went into the back yard and saw two to three holes in a target on a tree, but he could find no casings on the ground.

Then Sgt. Cayce testified he looked behind a log in the backyard and found an AR 15 next to two boots. Labean was taken into custody and the weapon taken as evidence.

When attorney Kecske asked about the discussion with Gutierrez, Sgt. Cayce said he had a video recorder on – a body cam – and everything she said is on the body cam.

Prosecutor Zuzow dismissed the witness and then asked that a charge of assault with intent to commit murder be added to the charges. Kecske objected, saying no one saw him shoot the door or door handle and there is no testimony to him being the one shooting.

Judge Green bound Labean over on the original charges. He is out after posting \$50,000/10% bond.

Steven Tyler Schmittling

Steven Tyler Schmittling, 26, waived his preliminary exam before Judge Green and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Dec. 16 on two charges.

He is charged with breaking and entering of a building with intent on Oct. 18, 2014 in Sumpter Township. Sumpter Detective John Toth is the officer in charge.

This involved a break-in to the Moose building at Harris/Sumpter roads, where a Halloween raffle box was stolen. Robert Coutts of the Moose was in the courtroom and he told Judge Green that the restitution has been paid in full.

The defendant also is charged by Huron Township with possession of narcotics, less than 25 grams, on Dec. 15, 2014. He was named a habitual offender on June 29 when his warrant for this offense was approved by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. Huron officer in charge is K. Nickrand.

Court-appointed defense attorney Dave Lankford said discussion over bond is moot because his client is incarcerated by the Department of Corrections on a parole violation.

Frederick Dewitt Lamphier

Frederick Dewitt Lamphier, 78, waived his preliminary exam before Judge Green, but his original charge of second-degree murder had been amended by the prosecutor to manslaughter.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazzi said the suspect got into a fight with the victim at Cedar Woods Assisted Living on Dec. 4, 2013 and the victim died later from the injury sustained in the fight.

Judge Green bound him over for an arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Dec. 16.

Lamphier was brought from the Wayne County Jail for his court appearance and he appeared confused and frail. His court-appointed attorney Lankford asked the judge to make sure Lamphier's file was marked "medical" so he would have his medications.

The recommendation for a warrant was approved on Aug. 22, 2014. He is being held on \$10,000/10% bond. VBT Detective Ken Toney is the officer in charge of the case.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice**Notice of Advertisement**

Seeking Demolition Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the demolition, removal, and disposal of all structures and debris at **930 Sumpter Road (Parcel Number V125-83-112-99-0019-000)**. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday or on the Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org. Bids shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office by **3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016** and will be publicly opened immediately following the closing of the bid. A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will take place at **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at the site at 930 Sumpter Road**. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and reserves the right not to award a contract. Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer. This project will be funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Posted and Published: December 17, 2015

Sumpter Township Public Notice**Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 24, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm, showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees Swinson, Oddy, P. Morgan, LaPorte. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk J. Hoffman and approximately 18 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Oddy to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on agenda items only:

Motion by Hoffman supported by P. Morgan to move item 10 E Consider approval to fill vacant Trustee position under public comments as item 4 A. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Motion by Bates, supported by Oddy to appoint Donald C. LaPorte to vacant Trustee position. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Bates, Oddy, Swinson, P. Morgan. Nay: C. Hoffman. Motion carried.

5. Minutes: A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Bates to accept minutes of Planning Commission October 8, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to approve warrants totaling \$110,929.88. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Clerk C. Hoffman, Bates, Oddy, Swinson, P. Morgan, LaPorte. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chamber Report-Swinson: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by C. Hoffman to approve Parks & Recreation/Chamber report. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Planning/Zoning Report-Oddy: Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve Planning

Zoning report. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Board Response: No Response.**10. New Business:**

A & B. Motion by C. Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve first reading of Amended Caregiver Ordinance which includes repealing existing Ordinance. Yes: Six (6). Nay: One (1). Motion carried.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve Sumpter Township resolution 2015-09, resolution establishing the fee structure for grade change application fees. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve 6 board members and/or deputies to attend MTA Conference January 20-22, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements: None.**12. Open Floor**

13. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on November 24, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.



Sumpter Township Public Notice



ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFENSES CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER BY AD OPTING THIS ORDINANCE FOR THE REGULATION AND LICENSING OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION, USE AND DISTRIBUTION UNDER MCLA.333.26421.

ORDINANCE NO. 107B

THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER ORDAINS TO:

Sec. 1. Purpose.

It is the purpose and intent of this Ordinance to give effect to the intent of Initiated Act 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26421, et seq., (the Act) establishing the legal basis for the medicinal use of marijuana as approved by the electors and to insure that marijuana is limited to the intended medical use as prescribed in the Act, and not to determine and establish an altered policy with regard to marijuana. This Ordinance is designed to recognize the fundamental intent of the Act; that is, to allow the creation and maintenance of a private and confidential patient-caregiver relationship, to facilitate the statutory authorization for the limited cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana for medical purposes, and to regulate around this fundamental intent in a manner that does not conflict with the Act. It is also the intent of the Township Board in enacting this Ordinance to recognize the intent of the Act while addressing issues that would otherwise expose the community and its residents to significant adverse conditions, including the following: adverse and long-term influence on children; substantial serious criminal activity; danger to law enforcement and other members of the public; discouragement and impairment of effective law enforcement with regard to unlawful activity involving the cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana; the creation of a purportedly lawful commercial enterprises involving the cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana that is not consistent with the limited caregiver relationship established in the Act to insure intimate and direct provision of an otherwise illegal substance not reasonably susceptible of being distinguished from serious criminal enterprise; and, the uninspected installation of unlawful plumbing, electrical facilities and home businesses that create dangerous health, safety, and fire conditions.

The approval of a license under this division shall not have the effect of superseding or nullifying federal law applicable to the cultivation, use, and possession of marijuana unless specifically provided for by Michigan law. All applicants and grantees of licenses are on notice that they may be subject to prosecution and civil penalty.

Sec. 2. Conflict.

Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed in such a manner as to conflict with the existing Sumpter Township Ordinances except as otherwise stated herein.

Sec. 3. Amend Section 49 of the Township of Sumpter Misdemeanor Ordinance enacted on September 11, 1984, by adding Section (f) to Section 49 to read as follows:

Sec. 49-(f) Regulation and licensing of certain aspects of Medical Marijuana cultivation, use, and distribution.

Sec. 14-206. - Regulation and licensing of certain aspects of medical marijuana cultivation, use, and distribution.

(a) **Intent.** It is the intent of this section to give effect to the intent of Initiated Act 1 of 2008, MCL 333.26421 et seq., (the Act) establishing the legal basis for the medicinal use of marijuana as approved by the electors and to insure that marijuana is limited to the intended medical use as prescribed in the Act, and not to determine and establish an altered policy with regard to marijuana. This section is designed to recognize the fundamental intent of the Act; that is, to allow the creation and maintenance of a private and confidential patient-caregiver relationship, to facilitate the statutory authorization for the limited cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana for medical purposes, and to regulate around this fundamental intent in a manner that does not conflict with the Act. It is also the intent of the township board in enacting this section to recognize the intent of the Act while addressing issues that would otherwise expose the community and its residents to significant adverse conditions, including the following: Adverse and long-term influence on children; substantial serious criminal activity; danger to law enforcement and other members of the public; discouragement and impairment of effective law enforcement with regard to unlawful activity involving the cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana; the creation of a purportedly lawful commercial enterprises involving the cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana that are not consistent with the limited caregiver relationship established in the Act to insure intimate and direct provision of an otherwise illegal substance not reasonably susceptible of being distinguished from serious criminal enterprise; and, the uninspected installation of unlawful plumbing and electrical facilities that create dangerous health, safety, and fire conditions.

The approval of a license under this division shall not have the effect of superseding or nullifying federal law applicable to the cultivation, use, and possession of marijuana unless specifically provided for by Michigan law. All applicants and grantees of licenses are on notice that they may be subject to prosecution and civil penalty.

(b) **Definitions.** The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Act means Initiated Law of 2008, MCL 333.26421 et seq., and Michigan Administrative Rules, R333.101 et seq ("MMMA").

Department means the State of Michigan Department of Community Health.

Distribution means the physical transfer of any amount of marijuana in any form by one (1) person to any other person or persons, whether or not any consideration is paid or received. At no time shall distribution include marijuana that has been altered or combined with another controlled substance unless allowed under the MMMA.

Distributor means any person, including but not limited to a caregiver, patient or any other person, who engages in any one (1) or more acts of distribution.

Facility or premises means either (i) one (1) commercial business premises with industrial zoning having a separate or independent postal address which shall be subject to the requirements and regulations set forth in section 14-206(c)b, (ii) one (1) single-family residence having a separate or independent postal address which shall be subject to the requirements and regulations set forth in section 14-206(c)a.

Marijuana means the substance or material defined in section 7106 of the Public Health Code, 1976 PA 368, MCL 333.7106.

Primary caregiver or caregiver means a person as defined under MCL 333.26423(g) of the Act, and who has been issued and possesses a Registry Identification Card under the Act.

Principal residence means the place where a person resides more than half of the calendar year.

Qualifying patient or patient means a person as defined under MCL 333.26423(h) of the Act.

Registry Identification Card means the document defined under MCL 333.26423(i) of the Act.

(c) Requirements for license.

(1) No applicant having property without a valid certificate of occupancy shall be eligible for a license. As to further zoning issues the following shall control:

- a. In all residential zoned areas, the Home Business Zoning Ordinance requirements and restrictions shall apply and be enforced. The failure to maintain full compliance with the Home Business Zoning restrictions and requirements shall result in immediate revocation of any issued permission or license under this Ordinance.



Sumpter Township Public Notice



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- b. In all Industrial Zoned areas, the applicant for any such license shall comply with all use requirements set forth in section 4.15 and 4.16. The failure to maintain full compliance with section 4.15 and 4.16 shall result in immediate revocation of any issued permission or license under this Ordinance.
 - c. There shall be no license issued to any applicant occupying a multifamily dwelling or to any applicant occupying a portion of a building that deemed multifamily regardless of the zoning classification.
 - d. Regardless of the zoning classification of property wherein an occupant is requesting a license, no more than one license shall be issued per property parcel within the Township.
- (2) The cultivation of marijuana by a caregiver, and the provision of caregiver services relating to medical marijuana use, shall be permitted in accordance with the Act. No cultivation, distribution, and other assistance to patients shall be lawful in this township at a location unless and until such location is licensed by the Clerk, or his/her designee, under this division.
- (3) It is not the intent of the township board in enacting this section to require a license for the principal residence of a patient where marijuana is cultivated or used exclusively for such patient's personal consumption and such person or other members of the household are not authorized caregivers under the Act; however, a location other than a patient's principal residence where a patient cultivates or uses marijuana shall be subject to the licensure requirements of this division.
- (4) Application for license. A confidential application for a license under this section shall be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office, and shall conform to the following specifications. An application shall:
- a. Require the name and address of patient (subject to the limitations in (c)(3) above) and/or caregiver.
 - b. Include the address and legal description of the precise premises, other than a patient's principal residence, at which there shall be possession, cultivation, distribution or other assistance in the use of marijuana. The fact that a caregiver also has an ID card as a patient shall not relieve the obligation to provide this information.
 - c. Indicate whether the premises or land are owner-occupied or a rental. If the premises or land are being rented by the applicant, a notarized letter from the landlord indicating approval of the proposed use must be provided.
 - d. Describe the enclosed locked facility in which any and all cultivation of marijuana is proposed to occur or where marijuana is stored. The description shall include: location in building, precise measurements, in feet, of the floor dimensions and height, and the security device for the facility.
- The cultivation of marijuana that occurs in an enclosed, locked facility outside of the primary structure must also comply with all applicable zoning ordinances.
- e. Describe all locations in the premises where a caregiver shall render assistance to a qualifying patient.
 - f. Specify the number of patients to be assisted, including the number of patients for whom marijuana is proposed to be cultivated, and the number of patients to be otherwise assisted on the premises, and the maximum number of plants to be grown or cultivated at any one (1) time. At no time shall the number of plants exceed twelve (12) per patient.
 - g. Certify that the patients for whom marijuana is proposed to be cultivated are not obtaining marijuana from any other source.
 - h. For safety and other code inspection purposes, it shall describe and provide detailed specifications of all lights, equipment, and all other electrical, plumbing, and other means proposed to be used to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana plants.
 - i. Provide in detailed form a general layout of the grow area including a description of all areas used in the grow including:
 - (a) areas for supply, support and furnishing the grow,
 - (b) areas used for storage of chemicals within or related to the grow, and
 - (c) all other areas, inside and out that will be occupied or used to support the grow operation.
- The form submitted shall include actual dimensions, setbacks, utility locations, parking areas, access areas from public or private roads, connection to Township sewer system if available, zoning classification, current and proposed uses and all other information required of any Township department.
- j. Cause the Applicant to initially certify that they will not engage in dispensing medical marijuana at any location other than the subject property within the Township or to patient's residence. There shall be no more than one license issued to any one address.
- (5) Requirements and standards for approval of licensure and for the activity permitted:
- a. Locations used for the cultivation of marijuana by caregivers, and the location used for the provision of assistance to patients by caregivers relating to medical marijuana use, including distribution or other assistance to patients by caregivers relating to medical marijuana use, including distribution or other assistance, but in all events not including a patient's principal residence which is not used to cultivate marijuana or assist in the use of medical marijuana for persons other than the patient at such residence, shall be prohibited:
 - (a) Within one thousand (1,000) feet a daycare facility, a township park, a public community center, a public or private pre-school, elementary school, middle school, high school, community college, and all other schools.
 - (b) Within five hundred (500) feet of the site at which any other caregiver cultivates marijuana, or assists in the use of marijuana, not including a patient's principal residence, which is not used to cultivate marijuana or assist in the use of medical marijuana for persons other than the patient at such residence.
 - (c) Within two hundred fifty (250) feet of a church, mosque or place of worship.
- Measurements for purposes of this subsection shall be made from property boundary to property boundary.
- b. The location of the facility at which a caregiver permitted under the Act cultivates marijuana, or assists a patient in the use of marijuana, shall not be the same facility at which any other caregiver or person cultivates marijuana, or assists a patient in the use of marijuana.
 - c. There shall be not more than twelve (12) marijuana plants being cultivated at any one (1) time per patient at a patient's principal residence used by such patient to cultivate marijuana for his or her personal use as permitted under the Act. If, under the principal residence exemption, three (3) or more occupants of the residence are qualifying patients as defined by the Act, the residence must become a licensed facility.

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Sumpter Township Public Notice



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- d. At a facility at which a caregiver cultivates marijuana for use by patients, there shall not be more than twelve (12) marijuana plants being cultivated at any one (1) time per patient, and no event more than sixty (60) marijuana plants being cultivated at any one (1) time (which assumes cultivation for five (5) patients), plus an additional twelve (12) plants if the caregiver is also a patient that has not designated a caregiver to assist in providing medical marijuana, for a maximum total of seventy-two (72) plants.
- e. In order to insulate children and other vulnerable individuals from such actions, all medical marijuana cultivation, and all assistance of a patient in the use of medical marijuana by a caregiver, shall occur within the confines of a building licensed under this section, and such activities shall occur only in locations not visible to the public and adjoining uses.
Medical marijuana cultivation that occurs outside of the primary structure may only occur in a structure composed of opaque material and in compliance with the MMMA.
- f. The electrical and plumbing inspectors (and other inspector(s) within whose expertise an inspection is needed) must, after inspection, provide a report confirming that all lights, plumbing, equipment, and all other means proposed to be used to facilitate the growth or cultivation of marijuana plants is in accordance with applicable codes. Inspections shall occur on an annual basis.
- g. Considering that the distribution of marijuana is generally unlawful, and that the Act authorizes "caregivers," and does not authorize any activity such as a "dispensary" (authorized by statutes in other states), the activities of caregivers are interpreted as being limited to private and confidential endeavors. Moreover, the location and identity of a caregiver is known to patients. Accordingly, there shall be no signage identifying a caregiver use or a place at which medical marijuana is distributed.
- h. Township through the applicable departments shall determine prior to final recommendation that the following requirements have been met:
 - (a) Treasurer's office to confirm license application fee has been paid in full. No license review shall commence until all fees have been paid and all checks have cleared.
 - (b) The Township Clerk's Office shall confirm that the license application is administratively complete.
 - (c) Police Department to complete the background checks of all required individuals including all employees, volunteers or contracted workers.
 - (d) Treasurer's office to confirm that all property tax, personal property tax, water and sewage bills and all other financial obligations due the Township are paid in full.
 - (e) The zoning administrator or designee shall determine and indicate the zoning of the property that is the subject of the application for license.
 - (f) Zoning and Building official shall inspect and review all property that is the subject of the application for license to determine compliance with the applicable requirements in section 14-206(c)(1)a and b.
 - (g) Police Chief or his/her designee and the township supervisor or his/her designee to complete final review to determine the application is administratively complete.
 - (h) If determined administratively complete; the Township's Clerk's Office shall issue license.
- (6) If approved, all use of property shall be in accordance with an approved application, including all information and specifications submitted by the applicant in reliance on which the application shall be deemed to have been approved.
- (7) A facility that exists on the effective date of this section must make application for and receive approval to continue to operate; provided, an application shall be filed within fifteen (15) days following the effective date of this section. If an application for licensure under this section is denied due to the minimum distance requirement standards, and a timely application has been filed seeking licensure under this section, such facility shall have sixty (60) days from the date of application denial to cease operating at the denied site.
A facility that exists on the effective date of the ordinance from which this section was derived that fails to acquire a license within sixty (60) days of the effective date shall cease operating at the existing site.
- (8) All licenses must be renewed on an annual basis.
- (9) The subject property of any issued license that is revoked for any reason under this Ordinance shall not be the subject of any subsequent licensing effort for a period of one (1) year following the date of revocation.
- (10) An applicant for license shall have the right to appeal any denial under this ordinance to the Planning Commission or its designated committee. Any decision by the Township Board of Trustees or designated committee shall be final. Any appeal thereafter shall be to the Wayne County Circuit Court.
- (d) Fees. All license applications and license renewals shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as determined by township board of trustees by resolution from time to time and relate to the costs expended by the township for processing said applications and renewals.
- (e) Obligation to report change in property use; disposal of unused marijuana and/or marijuana plants.
 - (1) It shall be the obligation of the applicant to report, in writing, any changes to the information contained in the application to the Township Clerk's office.
 - (2) A qualifying patient or caregiver whose circumstances change shall immediately contact the police department for assistance with disposing of the unused marijuana and/or marijuana plants.
- (f) Inspection of patient cultivation. A patient, who is exempt from licensing under the principal residence exemption, should take the steps necessary to insure that his or her cultivation of medical marijuana does not create a personal health or safety issue.
Upon the request of a patient who is cultivating medical marijuana, the chief of police, or his designee, shall confidentially coordinate electrical and plumbing inspectors (and other inspector(s) within whose expertise an inspection is needed) with regard to the site of such cultivation for the purpose of determining whether all lights, plumbing, equipment, and all other means used to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana plants is in accordance with applicable codes. In carrying out the provisions of this subsection, the name and address of the patient shall not be required.
- (g) Other prohibited conduct.
 - (1) At no time shall distribution include marijuana that has been altered or combined with another controlled substance unless allowed under the MMMA.
 - (2) No physician shall provide written certification in support of an application for a registry identification card unless a bona fide physician-patient relationship exists.

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- (3) Notwithstanding the issuance of a license under this ordinance, all Township ordinances shall be complied with including but not limited to Sec. 14-243.
- (h) Distribution.
 - (1) The distribution of medical marijuana shall only occur in the licensed premises or in the home of a qualifying patient.
 - (2) The distribution of medical marijuana shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. There shall be no distribution of medical marijuana between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - (3) The amount of marijuana distributed to a qualifying patient shall not exceed the amount allowed as permitted by the Act. The weight shall be determined at the time of distribution without regard for the inclusion of stems, seeds, etc.
- (i) Consumption. Because the fundamental intent of the Act is to allow private and confidential use of marijuana for medical purposes, consumption and use of marijuana for medical purposes shall occur only in the home of a qualifying patient or in a licensed facility.
- (j) Penalty for violation.
 - (1) A person convicted of a violation of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than ninety-three (93) days or a fine of not more than one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars or both.
 - (2) In addition to the penalties above, three (3) convictions for violating this section shall result in license revocation.
- (k) No vested rights. A property owner shall not have vested rights or nonconforming use rights that would serve as a basis for failing to comply with this section or any amendment of this division.
- (l) Severance clause. Sections of this ordinance shall be deemed to be severable and should any section, paragraph or provision be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holdings shall not affect the validity of this ordinance in whole or in part, other than the part declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.
- (m) Repealer. All ordinance or parts of ordinances of the Township of Sumpter in conflict herewith and particularly Township Ordinance 14-206 enacted on or about August 23, 2011, are hereby repealed to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Sec. 4. Repealed.

All ordinance or parts of ordinances of the Township of Sumpter in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect. Specifically township Ordinance No. 14-206 with an Effective Date of August 23, 2011 is and the same is specifically repealed in its entirety and otherwise replaced by this Ordinance.

Sec. 5. Adoption.

A First Reading of this Ordinance is hereby declared to have been approved by the Township Board of the Township of Sumpter, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a meeting, called and held on the 24th day of November, 2015.

Sec. 6. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take immediately thirty (30) days following a second reading and publication.

Sec. 7. Publication.

This ordinance shall be recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk, and shall be published once in the Township newspaper of record within thirty (30) days after its passage.

John Morgan, Supervisor
Sumpter Township

Clarence Hoffman, Clerk
Sumpter Township

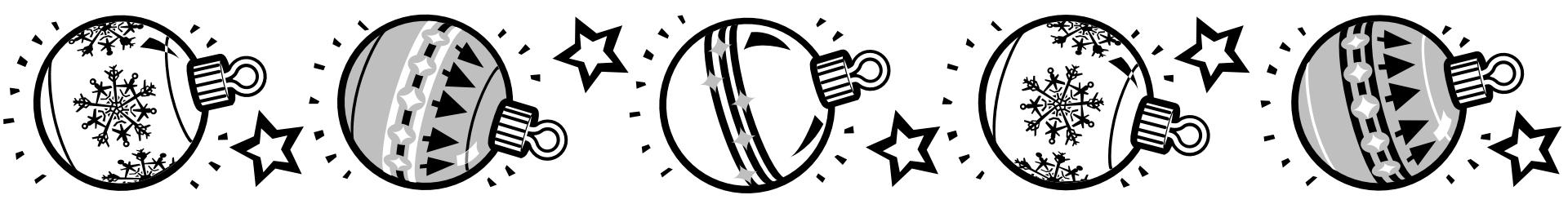
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above stated constitutes a true and complete copy of Ordinance No.107B the first reading being approved on November 24th, 2015 and the second reading being approved by the Township Board of the Township of Sumpter, County of Wayne, Michigan, at a Regular Township Board Meeting on the 8th day of December, 2015. I further certify that Board Member Hoffman moved for the adoption of said Ordinance and that Board Member Bates supported said motion. I further certify that the following members voted for adoption of said Ordinance J. Morgan, Hoffman, Bates, Oddy, P. Morgan, Swinson & LaPorte, and that the following members voted against the adoption of said Ordinance none.

I further certify that the said Ordinance has been recorded in the Ordinance Book of the Township and such recording has been authenticated by the signatures of the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk.

Clarence Hoffman, Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2015



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 751 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Dec. 6:

- 0336 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
- 0452 – family trouble, Ventura Dr.
- 1502 – property damage accident, Michigan / bypass
- 1652 – property damage accident, Locust Dr.
- 1732 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.
- 1759 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.
- 1807 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1813 – suspicious situation, Bemis Rd./Bak Rd.
- 1827 – malicious destruction of property, Village Green Ln.
- 2008 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
- 2017 – disturbance, Rawsonville Rd.
- 2033 – fraud, S. Ponderosa Trl.

Monday, Dec. 7:

- 0039 – assault & battery, E. Archwood Dr.
- 0206 – intimidation threat, E. Archwood Dr.
- 0758 – vehicle repossession, Ecorse Service Dr. B
- 0847 – code enforcement, Haggerty Rd.
- 0933 – private property accident, Belle Square
- 1128 – fraud, Bemis Rd.
- 1157 – private property accident, Rawsonville Rd.
- 1206 – property damage accident, Hoeft/Martz
- 1323 – malicious destruction of property, Basswood Cir.
- 1424 – fraud, Savage Rd., cancelled
- 1601 – assault & battery, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1633 – assault & battery, Peachtree
- 1639 – mental, Hannan Rd.
- 1719 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
- 1808 – mental, Lauren Ct.
- 1951 – noise complaint, Sylvia Dr.
- 2142 – fraud, Haggerty
- 2143 – mental, Tyler Rd.
- 2312 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2322 – retail fraud, Belleville

Tuesday, Dec. 8:

- 0305 – assault & battery, E. Huron River Dr.
- 0406 – larceny from auto, Timberview Ct.
- 0548 – larceny from auto, Revere Dr.
- 0757 – larceny from auto, Van Born
- 0837 – larceny from auto, Dorchester Dr.
- 0949 – intimidation threat, Belleville Rd.
- 0956 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd.
- 1002 – larceny from auto, Wheeler St.
- 1029 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
- 1337 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
- 1341 – private property incident, N. Woodbury Dr.
- 1547 – holdup alarm, Briarwood Ct.
- 1622 – private property accident, S. Schooner Dr.
- 1622 – property damage accident, Village Center Dr.
- 1650 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Spencer
- 1902 – disorderly conduct, Belleville Rd.
- 2004 – juvenile complaint, Sadie Ln.

Wednesday, Dec. 9:

- 0729 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
 - 1022 – code enforcement, Dewitt Rd.
 - 1034 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
 - 1238 – breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
 - 1414 – malicious destruction of property, Van Born Rd.
 - 1435 – larceny, McBride Ave.
 - 1547 – larceny, Denton Rd.
 - 1734 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Lacy Dr.
 - 1913 – larceny, Farm Rd.
 - 1923 – fraud, Westlake
 - 2315 – vehicle repossession, N. Woodbury Dr.
 - 2321 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
- Thursday, Dec. 10:**
- 0533 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
 - 0706 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.
 - 0754 – mental, Borgman Ave.
 - 0912 – property damage accident, Rawsonville
 - 0951 – agency assist, South

- 1010 – agency assist, Kouza Ct./S. I-94 Service Dr
- 1325 – private property accident, Belle Tire
- 1508 – assault & battery, Sylvia Dr.
- 1753 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
- 1812 – disorderly conduct, Hannan Rd./Huron River Dr.

- 2244 – breaking & entering, Lexington Ct.

Friday, Dec. 11:

- 0215 – vehicle repossession, Denton Rd.
- 0835 – disorderly conduct, McBride Middle, cancelled
- 0842 – private property accident, E. Schooner Dr.
- 1003 – missing person, Oak Ln.
- 1053 – bomb threat, McBride Ave.
- 1219 – neighbor trouble, Rose
- 1248 – malicious destruction of property, W. Huron River Dr.
- 1307 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1309 – larceny, Rolan Meadows Dr.
- 1319 – fraud, Harbor Ln.
- 1529 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
- 1553 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1648 – retail fraud, Belleville
- 1705 – fraud, Andover Dr.
- 1737 – harassment call, Lake Crest Dr.
- 1754 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
- 1826 – harassment call, W. Huron River Dr.
- 2024 – private property accident, Brandi
- 2035 – intimidation threat, E. Columbia
- 2041 – agency assist, Sumpter/Willis
- 2123 – noise complaint, Sugarbush
- 2236 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, Dec. 12:

- 0108 – private property accident, Industrial
- 0109 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
- 0119 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
- 0415 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0458 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 0938 – disturbance, Village Green Ln.
- 0941 – mental, Village Green Ln.
- 1103 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
- 1108 – neighbor trouble, Sheldon Rd.
- 1334 – assault & battery, Lighthouse
- 1510 – family trouble, Marina Dr.
- 1657 – property damage accident, Huron River Dr. / Hannan Rd.
- 1711 – noise complaint, Jackson Ln.
- 1950 – disorderly conduct, Parkwood Manor
- 2214 – disturbance, Pine Dr.
- 2223 – disturbance, Robson Rd.
- 2304 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 223 traffic stops, with 29 of them being on the I-94/I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 6:

- 0429 – assist fire dept., N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 1434 – civil matter, Carmell St.
- 1714 – found property, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1903 – welfare check, N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 2211 – suspicious situation, Hayward's
- 2307 – assault & battery, Loza Ln.

Monday, Dec. 7:

- 1037 – intimidation threat, W. Columbia
- 1316 – suspicious situation, Potter
- 1610 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
- 1715 – malicious destruction of property, Carmell

Tuesday, Dec. 8:

- 1044 – larceny from auto, E. Thornhill Ct.
- 1722 – intimidation threat, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1820 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
- 2124 – abandoned auto, Main St./Second St.
- 2300 – noise complaint, Owen Intermediate

Wednesday, Dec. 9:

- 1108 – suspicious person, Main St.
- 1145 – suspicious person, Harbour Pointe
- 1321 – warrant arrest, Washtenaw County Jail
- 1402 – assist fire dept., Brain St., cancelled
- 1608 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
- 1759 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.
- 1835 – prisoner transfer, Main St.
- 2351 – background investigation, Main St.

Thursday, Dec. 10:

- 1257 – larceny, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1318 – assist fire dept., Owen St.

- 1404 – juvenile complaint, Horizon Park
- 1432 – welfare check, Loza Ln.
- 1816 – breaking & entering, Church St.
- 2125 – suspicious vehicle, Village Park
- 2303 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd./Spencer St.

Friday, Dec. 11:

- 0639 – assist citizen, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0835 – disorderly conduct, McBride
- 1103 – agency assist, McBride
- 1226 – intrusion alarm, Harbour Pointe Dr.
- 1316 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
- 1330 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 1635 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
- 2041 – agency assist, Sumpter/Willis
- 2106 – information, Main St.
- 2225 – civil matter, Henry St.

Saturday, Dec. 12:

- 0806 – suspicious vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd. / Estrada Dr.
- 0856 – follow up, Loza Ln.
- 2014 – civil matter, Main St./Third St.
- 2332 – civil matter, Carmell

Also on this week's log are 69 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 6:

- 0425 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
- 1022 – suspicious incident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1055 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1858 – well-being check, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Monday, Dec. 7:

- 0205 – suspicious vehicle, Karr/Judd
- 0310 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0657 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 0749 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 0836 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
- 1044 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1252 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.
- 1407 – animal complaint, Judd/Martinsville
- 1423 – warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Sumpter
- 1629 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1758 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1834 – subpoena service, out of township
- 1844 – mental health commitment, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 8:

- 1900 – breaking & entering, 23000 bl. Sherwood
- 1909 – warrant arrest pick up, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1913 – family trouble, Greenmeadow
- 2111 – assist other agency, 5900 bl. Rawsonville

Tuesday, Dec. 8:

- 0005 – fire dept. assist, Hawaii
- 0816 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
- 0850 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 0855 – reckless driver, Sumpter/Judd
- 1513 – abandoned vehicle, Birch
- 1620 – suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Willis
- 1710 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1901 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
- 1941 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 2122 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 9:

- 0045 – suspicious person, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0857 – reckless driver, Willow/Sumpter
- 1036 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1043 – suspicious incident, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
- 1325 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Carleton West
- 1503 – suspicious incident, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1514 – breaking & entering, Magnolia
- 1801 – animal complaint, Willis/Rawsonville
- 2005 – 911 hang up, Arizona
- 2038 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 2207 – operating while intoxicated, Willis/Wilmot

Thursday, Dec. 10:

- 0014 – operating while intoxicated, Bohn/Judd
- 0330 – well-being check, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1043 – property damage accident, 47000 bl. Bemis
- 1112 – property damage accident, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1242 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Fenster
- 1335 – animal bite, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
- 1353 – suspicious vehicle, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 1403 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Willis/Rawsonville
- 1443 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1458 – alarm, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1501 – fraud complaint, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 1541 – neighbor dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 1613 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Judd

Friday, Dec. 11:

- 1720 – breaking & entering, 28000 bl. Sherwood
- 1826 – citizen assist, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
- 1938 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Willis Ct.

Friday, Dec. 11:

- 0912 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1109 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 1200 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1446 – shots fired, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 1507 – mental health commitment, 44000 bl. Paris
- 1509 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
- 1542 – civil dispute, Timberlane
- 1717 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Clay
- 1905 – property damage accident, Judd/Carleton

West

- 2033 – fight, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2149 – disorderly person, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2231 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2319 – animal complaint, Willow/Martinsville

Saturday, Dec. 12:

- 0039 – well-being check, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
- 0208 – assault, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 0310 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 0418 – citizen assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
- 0541 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sully Dr.
- 0658 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 0903 – malicious destruction of property, 20000 bl. Griffin Ct.
- 1109 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1213 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Kozma
- 1248 – suspicious person, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 2232 – assist other agency, 23000 bl. Carleton West

Also on this week's log are 12 follow-up investigations, 34 miscellaneous details, 143 patrol checks, and 67 traffic stops.

Gov. Rick Snyder reappoints Robarge to Human Trafficking Brd.

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder announced on Dec. 10 the reappointment of Brigitte Robarge of Belleville to the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board.

The board is housed in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and works to address issues relating to medical and mental health of human trafficking survivors.

"I am confident that Brigitte's contributions on this board will help ensure Michigan is doing whatever possible to hold criminals accountable while strengthening protections for human trafficking victims," Gov. Snyder said.

Robarge is a driver with Manheim, a dealership transport operation and is a survivor of human trafficking. She earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from Schoolcraft Community College and is working on a bachelor's degree in social work. Robarge continues to represent human trafficking survivors.

Robarge will serve a four-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2019. Her appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Friends of Library set Holiday Book Sale for Fri., Sat., Dec. 18, 19

The Friends of the Belleville Area District Library will hold a Holiday Book Sale on Friday, Dec. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be lots of holiday books, hobbies, crafts, and winter reading.

VBT fire

(continued from page 1)

The 18-month-old was first reported to have expired at the scene, but that information was revised and she continues to cling to life.

Savion was missing for several hours and his body was found by Belleville fire fighters at about 8:45 a.m. in the lower level at the back of the house.

Three children were taken to Mott Children's Hospital in critical condition and one in stable condition. One woman was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital. Huron Valley Ambulance had five ambulances at the scene. Later, the second woman was taken to the hospital.

One of the women jumped from a deck

or window at the back of the house with a four-month-old infant in her arms. She broke her leg and was pulled away from the house by neighbors. Then, neighbors said, a sparking electrical line dropped next to the woman with the broken leg and she was dragged to the front of the house.

Then the gas line erupted and VBT Fire called DTE to dig up the front yard and shut off the gas. VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said flames were as high as the big trees in the yard from the gas fire.

Neighbors were traumatized by the blaze in their normally quiet neighborhood — and there were lots of tears. One neighbor said the family was believed to be squatters since the house was foreclosed on four years ago with stickers on the windows and all the utilities shut off. It is owned by a



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

A State Police Fire Investigator heads to the scene of the fire to begin his work.

bank, they said. Neighbors said there had been illegal electrical hookups they could see.

Neighbors said they had been battling a series of squatters on the property and different families had moved in and out. The grass was often three feet tall and they burned trash in the fireplace for heat. Two years ago there were charges of animal abuse at the home and the animals were removed.

One neighbor said she believed the township did everything it could legally to get rid of the squatters. She said the bank had a buyer for the property, but told the buyers they would have to get rid of the squatters, so the buyers backed off.

She said fire fighters did a phenomenal job in putting out the fire.

VBT Public Safety officials and state fire officials are investigating the cause of the fire. There was talk of candles in the house, but that is only preliminary information.

Assisting VBT Fire Department at the scene were Belleville and Sumpter Township Fire Departments, Michigan State Police, MSP Fire Marshal and VBT and Belleville Police.

Director Laurain said Belleville Police heard what was happening over the police radio and came on their own to help, although they were just getting off their night assignment and could have gone home.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson was out of town for the weekend but was kept informed of the activities, Director Laurain said.

Van Buren Public Schools Superintendent Michael Van Tassel put a letter online that sent prayers to the family of Savion and alerted parents that social workers and counselors would be available to students for as long as necessary.

On Sunday night, police and fire officers had a debriefing. Director Laurain said the incident took a toll on the officers and they were able to share their feelings at the meeting.

Several groups are accepting donations for the family including Van Buren Police Officers Association and Van Buren Fire Fighters Association, who are accepting checks, clothes, and other physical items at Mail Center One, 847 Sumpter Rd. Also a youcaring account has been set up for credit card accounts.

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26360 BELL ROAD HURON TWP
UNMATCHED BEAUTY! This gorgeous home sits on 2.38 Acres with countless high end finishes to please every want and need. 20 foot stone fireplace, Custom kitchen with granite countertops and Brazilian Hardwood floors Everywhere. 4 Full bedrooms 3 1/2 Baths, 3000+ Sq Feet, Full Finished Basement, 3 1/2 Car Garage. MUCH MORE \$449,000.



8862 PRAIRIE, YPSILANTI TWP
CORNER LOT DREAM HOME with 3 Car Attached Garage and elegant features throughout. Formal Dining Room, Great Room opens to a Huge Kitchen. Master suite offers whirlpool tub and massive walk-in closet. Deep daylight basement has lots of space for play area, workshop area and more. Located near Shopping and Freeways \$289,000



6315 DENTON , VAN BUREN
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44940 BEMIS, VAN BUREN
LARGER Van Buren Township vinyl ranch featuring 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Family Room with Fireplace, Dining Room, Open Living Room, Central Air and Walkout Deck. Huge 2 1/2 Car Garage on 1.4 Acre Double Lot, Paved Street and More. Astonishingly Affordable at. \$174,900



15450 INKSTER RD, ROMULUS
UPDATED 3 BEDROOM VINYL SIDED BUNGALOW with brand new kitchen, big basement, new water heater, 90+ furnace, newer windows, 14 foot enclosed front porch and 1 1/2 car block garage. Large yard for Entertaining. Paved street and all utilities. Priced to Sell. \$80,000



10744 WILLIS, WILLIS
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42715 PRESWICK CT, VAN BUREN
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25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUILDABLE LOT \$27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
VINING AND SIBLEY 21+ ACRES \$450,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000

20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC \$25,900
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
15880 HABEDY 10.53 ACRES \$95,000
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VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750 VAN
6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT \$15,900
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000



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